



**Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) Issues Workshop
Initial Water Reservations & Lower East Coast
Water Supply Plan Update
Building B-1 Auditorium, 3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida
Monday, March 21, 2005, 9:00 a.m.**

Ms. Carlyn Kowalsky, Dir., SFWMD Water Supply Dept., welcomed participants and provided an overview of the issue and the meeting agenda. John Mulliken, Dir., Div. of Planning and Resource Evaluation, noted several changes in the published agenda.

Workshop participants and SFWMD staff introduced themselves. Representatives of the National Park Service Center for Water were welcomed.

In response to a comment, Rick Smith, WRAC Facilitator, said that WRAC agenda's and meeting notices/schedules are posted on www.sfwmd.gov/wrac.

John Mulliken noted recent changes in the Lower East Coast (LEC) Water Supply planning process and explained the linkages between the LEC and Initial Water Reservations processes (see Exhibit 1).

Patrick Hayes, Loxahatchee River Coalition, asked whether the linkages were the same as those used in developing the Upper East Coast plan. Answer: No, modeling was not necessary for completion of that plan. Mr. Hayes responded that additional modeling is needed to address Loxahatchee restoration targets and the Natural Systems Model should be run to depict the Loxahatchee system as it existed prior to drainage. He requested a presentation on the natural system prior to changes caused by drainage. Cecile Ross, SFWMD Office of Counsel responded that the District is to identify water to be made available through CERP as established by the CERP goals, targets and restoration goals. Beth Lewis, Corps of Engineers suggested that the District appropriately label the model runs to reduce confusion. Patrick Hayes asked whether the Initial Reservations Guiding Principles would be discussed. Answer: Yes if time allows.

Jim Jackson, Supervising Planner, Water Supply Dept., asked the group to review the handout on this issue and said that assumptions for the models would be based on the latest information and water regulation schedules, most current versions of CERP project plans, and would incorporate water conservation data. Local governments are required to develop plans based on a 10 year planning horizon, therefore, SFWMD will do 10 and 20 year projections in the modeling.

Dave Swift, Exhibit #3

Mr. Swift, Initial Reservations Project Manager, Water Supply Dept., reviewed the planning approach and project schedule for Initial Water Reservations. Ms. Carol Rist, WRAC member, asked that Biscayne Bay South be included in this schedule and offered to work with the District on the issue.

Jayantha Obeysekera, Exhibit #4 and Table #1:

Mr. Obeysekera said that key assumptions used in the 2005 simulation for the South Florida Water Management model update builds upon the information Mr. Larry Brion presented at the LEC Water Supply Plan workshop on 10/27/04 at Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Miami. He said the assumptions use the most recent information regarding:

- 1). Lake Okeechobee water levels and regulation schedules; 2). Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) operations; 3). Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA); 4). South Dade Conveyance System releases; and operations; and, 5).water demand projections.

He said the Office of Modeling had updated, and is using, version 5.4 of the SFWMM. The starting point was version 3.7. The Regional Simulation Model (RSM) will be peer reviewed to assure quality, and he explained the assumed base case and how the modeling will be done. He noted the handout on this issue pointed out the differences between the Regional Simulation Model and the SFWMM, particularly regarding Lake Okeechobee, STA 3-4, the other STAs and WCA-3A.

Ms. Dana Ackerman-White, Lake Worth Drainage District, asked how information regarding Environmental Resource Permits would be handled in the modeling. Answer: Mr. Obeysekera replied that he would forward information about that issue.

April Gromnicki, Audubon of Florida, asked when model assumptions would be completed for use in guiding Loxahatchee restoration. Response: within the next several weeks. Dave Swift is working toward completion by April ; however the 2 x 2 model and Lower East Coast runs will probably be finished by May. Scott Burns said that work should be completed after workshops in April.

Ms. Beverly Grady, WRAC member, joined the meeting from Ft. Myers via video conference.

Scott Burns, Exhibit 5, Existing Legal Water Users:

Mr. Burns reviewed federal (CERP) and state statutory requirements regarding protection of the rights of existing legal water users.

Mr. Daryl Dunn, Broward County, asked if data on agricultural water use in the EAA is based on actual or permitted use. Answer: The model will not underestimate the amount flowing from the EAA.

Patrick Martin, Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD), said the LWDD was concerned about a source shift because of flows between the Site 1 Impoundment and WCA 1. He said the demand epicenter is at the C&SF pump stations, and it is essential that existing uses are able to continue to draw from an existing source, unless and until a comparable source of quantity and quality is provided. Answer: SFWMD Consumptive Use Permit and Initial Reservations decisions will not impact existing legal uses. The LWDD will have a 20-year permit and will need to be kept whole through this process, including any source shift. Mr. Martin asked if the SFWMD anticipated any source shifts for LWDD. Answer: This will have to be addressed in the Initial Reservations rule development process.

Patrick Hayes asked how the modeling would address environmental impacts of not only the consumptive uses of water but also water possibly lost through Environmental Resource Permits. Answer: The ERP data is not included. But the model does address control elevations and the permits are issued with conditions to address impacts on control elevations.

Mr. Daryl Dunn, Broward County, asked if discharges by the LWDD to the Hillsboro Canal were modeled in the 2X2. Patrick Hayes asked if the cumulative effects of any losses due to saltwater intrusion were included in the modeling, whether any rights were conveyed by permits at Site 1, whether there would have to be any relocation and what rights are conveyed by a permit to a new property owner? Answers: Can't answer all of these questions at this time. In general, permits are issued on the premise that there would not be impacts on the environment. The Initial Reservation for the Loxahatchee will include a saltwater intrusion line. In addition, restoration targets will be included.

Item #6 Jeff Giddings Exhibit #6:

Question from Patrick Hayes regarding control elevations for Martin County. Answer: 16 ½ to 17'; and whether the G92 structure operations and stages for C-18, culverts in Riverbend Park were included? Answer: Yes they are included. Tom Van Landt asked questions about environmental targets. April Gromnicki asked about permitted vs. actual use. Answer: John Mulliken responded that the DEP and SFWMD work to develop achievable restoration targets. New data will be incorporated in the modeling, if not, surrogates will be sought for modeling purposes. Actual use is the data included in the model.

Item 8 Keith Smith Exhibit 8:

Daryl Dunn, asked whether the public would see what the peer reviewers will see when the modeling results are completed. Answer: All the information will be posted on the sfwmd.gov website. Keith stated that no major changes are anticipated. Patrick Hayes said that the draft Guiding Principles for the Initial Reservations would have the effect of bifurcating the natural system and that there will not likely be enough water for fish and wildlife habitat. Answer: Cecile Ross said we need to get those concerns into the restoration planning.

Next Steps: John Mulliken said SFWMD would:

- like comments from stakeholders by April 1, e-mailed to dswift@sfwmd.gov.
- have another meeting either April 18th or 25th.
- provide 2015 and 2020 assumptions to participants
- provide preliminary performance targets
- provide control elevations for North Palm Beach County
- would seek closure on assumptions by next meeting.

Barbara Miedema updated group on legislative process and re-draft of CERP Guidance memos. Beth Lewis, COE, said a presentation on the GMs would be given to the SFER Task Force on May 10 in B-1 Auditorium.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Summary prepared by:

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